

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for separating different kinds of solid plastic particles in a solid plastic mixture, ~~said method comprising which comprises~~ the steps of preparing a solid plastic mixture comprising plural kinds of diamagnetic solid plastic particles, floating, suspending or precipitating said solid plastic particles in an aqueous solution of paramagnetic inorganic salt as a supporting liquid, applying a magnetic field gradient to the solid plastic mixture, and levitating or anti-levitating said [the] plastic particles at different locations in the supporting liquid ~~under a~~ under the magnetic field gradient, depending upon their the densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities of the plastic particles.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method claimed in claim 2-1, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.

5-8. (Canceled)

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Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

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Under a magnetic field gradient, solid particles floating and/or sinking in a suspending supporting liquid (most suitably a paramagnetic one) are levitated or anti-levitated at different locations depending on their densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities.